

Approved

Milford Board of Education

Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2012

Board members present:

Tracy Casey
Suzanne DiBiase
George Gensure
Susan Glennon
Dora Kubek
James Maroney
Beverley Pierson
Christopher Saley
Mark Stapleton
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

Elizabeth Feser
Mike Cummings
James Richetelli

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Milford Board of Education held a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, February 27, 2012, at City Hall. Mrs. Casey called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

II. EAST SHORE MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPANSION AND ALTERATIONS PROJECT

Mr. Richetelli navigated a PowerPoint presentation (attached) that gave a history of the schools along with their renovations. He explained the role of the Permanent Schools Facilities Building Committee. The Committee is appointed by the Board of Aldermen and is made up of two board of education members, two board of aldermen and three members of the community at large. Mr. Richetelli also reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan with the board.

Mr. Richetelli show slides that gave the public an idea of what the school looks like today and what the school will look like when the project is complete. Some improvements include a new centralized media center, a cafeteria addition, a dedicated music and art wing, the addition of four to eight classrooms and many code compliance upgrades. He further explained the changes to the parking lot. The parent drop off will be moved to the Seabreeze Avenue side of the building. He assured the board there will be little disruption as most of the more extensive work will be done when school is not in session.

Mr. Richetelli also explained that it is the building committee's responsibility to ensure the building is built. Items that are not considered necessities would be taken out as the funds deplete.

Approved

Mr. Richetelli explained the reimbursement rate is expected to be at 55%. Mr. Saley asked how if the current rate is running at 39%. Mr. Richetelli told him the economy is impacting the rate.

A board member asked about the declining enrollment. Why would you want to expand if the enrollment is on the decline?

Dr. Feser said the renovations are based on meeting the needs of the students and staff at East Shore Middle School.

Mr. Richetelli concurred.

III. SPECIAL EDUCATION AUDIT DISCUSSION

Dr. Feser delivered a PowerPoint presentation (attached) to the board that represented the need to conduct a Special Education audit. She further told the members that the cost of the audit would range.

Mr. Gensure asked where the money was to come from.

Mr. Richetelli told the board there will be an end of year savings. He knows for certain there will be turnover savings.

Dr. Feser explained that Guilford Public Schools spent \$30,000 for their audit. Their district is approximately half the size of Milford.

Ms. Glennon asked if the intent was to include the Talented and Gifted.

Mr. Cummings told her that Talented and Gifted falls under Special Education.

Mr. Maroney asked if Windsor had undergone a Special Education audit. Dr. Feser told him that they did not. However, other districts have done it and it helped them.

Mr. Maroney asked who would determine the scope of the RFP. Dr. Feser explained the administration would review other RFPs. It would then be presented to the board.

Mr. Maroney asked administration what happens with the year-end savings.

Mr. Richetelli told him that administration will make recommendations to the board. The board would then need to approve the transfer of funds from one account to another.

Mr. Maroney made a motion to approve administration to form a committee that will include a board member that will hire a consultant to conduct Special Education audit that will not exceed \$90,000. Dr. Stapleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approved

Mrs. Casey directed the board members to let her know if anyone has the interest of serving on the committee.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lisa Biagioni – 73 Sentinel Hill Road – Mrs. Biagioni told the board she is very excited that they are seeking the support of an outside consultant to conduct the audit. She finally feels like she is being heard. She asked to board to consider inclusion of school district's that have had audits done recently, such as Westport. She also mentioned that parents should be included for feedback.

Laura Fucci – 136 Welch's Point Road – She stressed that parent input in regards to the Special Education audit is very important to the outcome.

Michael Gerwien - 16 Crescent Road – Mr. Gerwien is a parent of a child that will be attending East Shore Middle School next year. He has concerns about the renovations and the impact it will have on students. Will the learning be disrupted?

Mr. Richetelli told Mr. Gerwien that the architect and the building committee are very acutely aware of the more disruptive parts of the renovations. Those pieces will be done during the summer months. He reiterated that student and staff safety are the priority.

Mrs. Casey asked if the public would be kept updated on the projects. Mr. Richetelli answered, yes.

V. BOARD COMMENT

Mrs. Casey thanked the boy scouts for attending the meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Maroney made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Stapleton seconded. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Recording Secretary:

Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary:

James Maroney